(b) the amount Government propose to give to the powerloom workers as premium;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to launch similar insurance scheme for the people living below poverty line in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) Government of India has introduced a group insurance scheme for powerloom workers in the country, in collaboration with the Life Insurance Corporation of India. The scheme has two components (1) 'Janashri Bima Yojana' of LIC (2) Add on Group Insurance Coverage for Death: The weavers has the option to avail either or both the options

*Under the *first option,* on payment of annual subscription of Rs. 40 by the weaver, Central Government will contribute of Rs. 60/- and LIC will provide Rs. 100/- from its Social Security Fund. The weavers will obtain the following coverage on various unforseen events as explained below:—

- On natural death, an assured sum of Rs. 20,000/-;
- On accidental death or permanent total disability, maximum of Rs. 50,000/-;
- On permanent partial disability Rs. 25,000/-
- On predetermined norms, LIC will provide scholarship benefit of Rs. 300/- per quarter/child, for 2 dependent children studying in the classes 9th and 12th under *Sikhsa Sahayog Yojana* for a period of four years or till they complete XII standard. The scholarship will be for academic year June to May.
- Under the *second option,* on payment Rs. 90/- by the worker, Central Government will pay Rs. 90/- and the worker will obtain the cover of Rs. 30,000/- on natural as well as accidental death.

(c) and (d) No new insurance scheme is proposed to be launched as of now.

Effect of import of Chinese yarn

†1922. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Indian sericulture farmers are facing difficulties because of import of Chinese yarn;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken for improvement of quality of Indian silk yarn;

(c) whether there is any proposal to expand sericulture and to make it quality-oriented during the Tenth Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian sericulture farmers have faced market disruption due to increased import of silk yarn at falling prices mainly from China.

(b) to (d) to improve the quality of silk yarn in the country following major steps are being taken:—

- Through Research & Development improved hybrid silkworm breeds and bivoltine breeds have been developed that are capable of producing raw silk upto international standard.
- A package of practices for food plant cultivation, silkworm rearing disease management, reeling etc. have been taken to the field to improve farm productivities.
- Low cost reeling technologies have been commercialised to improve productivities in reeling.
- Silk conditioning and testing houses have been established for testing of quality of raw silk and suggesting measures for improvement.
- Awareness programmes are organised for popularisation of various technologies and practices.
- Assistance to State Governments for critical inputs into sericulture development under various Centrally sponsored schemes in the X Plan has been significantly enhanced.

X Plan schemes envisage a production of 26450 MT of raw silk which includes 6700 MT of high quality bivoltine silk, as per details given below:—

Silks	Quantity (in tonnes)
Mulberry-Bivoltine	6700
Mulberry Multivoltine	17450
Tasar/Oak Tasar	450
Eri	1700
Muga	150
TOTAL	26450